

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 /099 W
-----046245 252234Z /45

R 250957Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9151
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3243

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, UR, ET
SUBJECT: USSR TO CHANGE AMBASSADORS TO SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR ANSTOLI P. RATANOV TOOK DCM ASIDE AT POLISH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION JULY 22 TO MAKE POINT THAT MANY IN ADDIS ABABA HAD MISINTERPRETED HIS LONG ABSENCE FROM THE ETHIOPIAN CAPITAL, I.E., SINCE LATE APRIL. ABSENCE HAD BEEN DUE SOLELY TO AMBASSADOR'S NEED TO CURE ULCER, HE REITERATED, AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH SOVIET-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. RATANOV HAD RETURNED JUST ONE DAY PREVIOUS FROM MOSCOW. HE WAS CORRECT IN INDICATING THAT THERE HAD BEEN A LOT OF SPECULATION ABOUT HIS ABSENCE, SOME EVEN GOING SO FAR AS TO SAY PMGSE HAD ASKED HIM NOT TO RETURN FOLLOWING NEGEDE GOBEZE INCIDENT.

2. RATANOV THEN SAID HE WOULD BE ASKING AGREEMENT FOR NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR SOMETIME THIS WEEK SINCE HAD HAD TO RETURN TO MOSCOW TO CONTINUE CURE. FURTHERMORE, LOCAL SOVIET DOCTORS HAD FOUND SERVICE AT ADDIS ALTITUDES LEADS TO HYPERTENSION AFTER TWO TO THREE YEARS. RATANOV HAS BEEN HERE FOUR. DCM YURI KUPLJAKOV HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED ONLY ABOUT ONE MONTH'S LEAVE INSTEAD OF THE QUOTE 48
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WORKING DAYS HE WAS ENTITLED TO, UNQUOTE ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR. RATANOV WILL PRESUMABLY LEAVE SHORTLY AFTER KUPLJAKOV'S RETURN. ON JULY 24 RATANOV ADDED HE WAS SPENDING MOST OF HIS TIME QUOTE PACKING LUGGAGE UNQUOTE.

3. DIP CORPS WILL BE WATCHING CAREFULLY HOW LONG IT TAKES PMGSE TO GRANT AGREEMENT AND READ IT AS A BAROMETER OF

PMGSE-USSR RELATIONS AS WAS THE CASE DURING THE THREE-MONTH WAIT FOR AGREEMENT FOR US AMBASSADOR.

4. EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, APPRECIATE ANYTHING EMBASSY MOSCOW CAN PICK UP ON SUBJECT OF NEW USSR AMBASSADOR.
CHAPIN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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